

Message Text

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13

ACTION XMB-07

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 EB-11 AGR-20 COME-00 CIAE-00

INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 DRC-01 /061 W

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R 201055Z FEB 74

FM AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7210

INFO AMEMBASSY COTONOU

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

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DEPT PASS EXIM

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OIVP, XA, IV

SUBJECT: VISIT OF EXIM OFFICIALS KOBELINSKI AND BIERMAN

SUMMARY. EXIMBANK OFFICIALS SPENT HECTIC THREE DAYS IN IVORY COAST MEETING WITH VARIOUS GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS IN THE MINISTRIES OF PLAN, TOURISM, AND PARA-STATAL AGENCIES AND VISITING LANG AFRIQUE SUGAR PROJECT. ALSO MET WITH LOCAL BANKERS AND DISCUSSED POSSIBILITY OF CFF LINES. INDICATIONS ARE GOOD THAT THREE CFF LINES WILL BE OPERATING IN IVORY COAST DURING THIS YEAR.

1. LANG AFRIQUE. IN COMPANY OF EMBOFFS, KOBELINSKI AND BIERMAN VISITED LANG AFRIQUE INSTALLATION AT FERKESSEDOUGOU AND MET WITH LANG OFFICIALS TO REVIEW PROGRESS SINCE SEPTEMBER. EXIM OFFICIALS NOTED THAT GREAT PROGRESS HAD BEEN MADE IN THE LAST FOUR MONTHS AND THIS COULD WARRANT CAUTIOUS OPTIMISM ABOUT COMPLETION IN SPRING OF THIS YEAR. SUBSEQUENT MEETING WITH KIGBAFOR, DIRECTOR OF SODESUCRE, FOCUSED ON LANG'S PERFORMANCE ON SUGAR PROJECT. KIGBAFOR WAS RELUCTANT TO CRITICIZE LANG, BUT STRESSED IMPLICATIONS CONSTRUCTION DELAY HAD FOR IVORY COAST AND SODESUCRE; INSTEAD OF ANTICIPATED 20,000 MT OF REFINED SUGAR THIS YEAR, 5,000 MT OF RAW SUGAR WAS OPTIMISTIC PROJECTION. ALTHOUGH HE CITED EXAMPLES OF POOR MANAGE-

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MENT, PLANNING AND ORGANIZATION, HE DID NOT STATE THAT LANG HAD

ACTED IN BAD FAITH. KIGBAFORI EXPECTS TO VISIT WASHINGTON IN MARCH AT WHICH TIME HE WILL HAVE A CLEARER IDEA OF WHERE PROJECT STANDS AND WHAT CAN BE SALVAGED OF THIS YEAR'S CROP.

2. CFF CREDIT LINES. EXIM OFFICIALS DISCUSSED WITH COMMERCIAL BANKS POSSIBILITY OF OPENING CFF CREDIT LINES. SOCIETE IVORIENNE DE BANQUE (SIB-12 PERCENT MORGAN GUARANTY) HAS SUBMITTED APPLICATION AND CREDIT LINE SHOULD BE OPERATIVE SHORTLY. BANQUE INTERNATIONALE DE L'AFRIQUE OUEST (BIAO-49 PERCENT FIRST NATIONAL CITY) HAS MADE APPLICATION FOR CFF THROUGH THEIR HEADQUARTERS IN PARIS. BANQUE INTERNATIONALE POUR LE COMMERCE ET L'INDUSTRIE EN LA COTE D'IVOIRE (BIVIVI-12 PERCENT BANK OF AMERICA) ALSO INDICATED INTEREST AND INTENT TO APPLY FOR A CFF LINE.

3. TOURISM. MEETING WITH MINISTRY OF TOURISM OFFICIALS WAS HIGHLIGHTED BY IVORIAN INTEREST IN ENCOURAGING HOTEL DEVELOPMENT IN EASTERN REGION NEAR ASSINIE, GRAND BASSAM AREA NEAR ABIDJAN, AND SOUTHWEST AREA NEAR SAN PEDRO. MINISTRY HAS DETAILED DEVELOPMENT PLANS AND STRESSED EXIM FINANCING WOULD BE MOST WELCOME IF AND WHEN PROJECTS CAN BE PUT TOGETHER. SAW MOST POTENTIAL IN RESORT/HOTEL OPERATIONS AND COMPLEMENTARY INFRASTRUCTURE E.G. ROADS, INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT AT SAN PEDRO.

4. TAABO DAM. AT MEETING WITH BANDAMA VALLEY AUTHORITY (AVB) OFFICIALS, EXIM REPRESENTATIVES RAISED ISSUE OF PRELIMINARY COMMITMENT FOR CONSTRUCTION AND ENGINEERING OF TAABO DAM (BANDAMA II). AVB OFFICIALS COMMENTED THAT THEY FELT CONTRACT WITH KAISER WOULD BE SIGNED AS SOON AS MINFIN BEDIE RETURNED FROM WASHINGTON. IVORIAN DETERMINATION TO HAVE CONSTRUCTION OPENED UP TO INTERNATIONAL COMPETITIVE BID COULD LIMIT EXIM PARTICIPATION.

5. MEETING WITH MINISTER OF PLAN DIAWARA REPORTED SEPTTEL.
ROOT

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Disposition Authority: morefirh
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
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Disposition Reason:
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